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styleathome SEPTEMBER 2016

The enduring appeal of linen has as much to do with its history as it does with its soft texture.

HOMES

70 PICTURE PERFECT
A designer blends modern and rustic styles to create a fabulous farmhouse retreat

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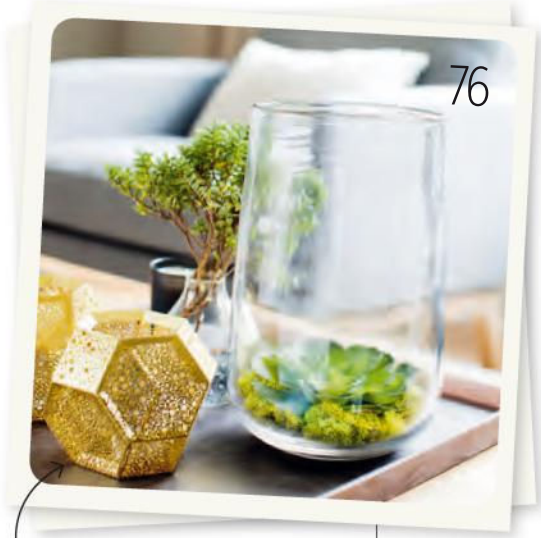

Refresh your living space with a bright vignette of greenery and faceted gold accents.

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Calming tones, organic elements and subtle patterns lend this bedroom a chic coastal look **32**

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travels WITH MY MOM

I first went to Ireland when I was seven years old. It was my first trip "across the pond," and I found myself envisioning wild and shaggy ponies galloping across the moors. I remember being disappointed when we landed at the airport in Dublin – not in an emerald green field as my father had promised. Of course, my dad has the Irish gift of the gab – as well as a propensity to tease me at every opportunity. But he was right about a few things: The weather was misty, we did stay in a tiny stone cottage in the countryside and woolly white sheep did dot the hillsides (alas, no wild ponies). I remember that vacation vividly. Perhaps it was the magic of the place or the fact that it was the last family trip we took before my mom passed away a few years later.

When I was in my teens, I came across the travel diary my mother kept throughout the trip. In it she wrote about the meals we had (porridge every morning!) and listed the yards of fabric she bought as we travelled. My mother made beautiful clothes and was fascinated by Irish linen.

Though I have visited Ireland a number of times since 1979, it was the trip I took last fall that allowed me to retrace my mother's linen route. Well, it wasn't her exact path, but my mom was on my mind as I toured a number of different linen manufacturers, from a small artisanal business to a mechanized large-scale operation. All the mills were steeped in history, and everywhere I went I learned about the passion the Irish have for producing linen.

Last year's trip was with *Style at Home* home & style director Ann Marie Favot and photographer Stacey Van Berkel. Our story on the history of linen and how this special fabric is used to decorate is in this issue (see "The Lure of Linen," page 63). It seems the beauty of Irish linen has become as much a part of my life as it was for my mom.

Erin

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instagram.com/styleathomeeditor

POT OF GOLD

While linen is my first love, I also fell for Avoca's cashmere blend Venice throw during my trip. There must have been an autumn chill in the air!

PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY VAN BERKEL; JACKET, ASMAR EQUESTRIAN

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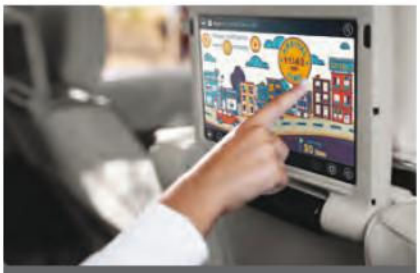

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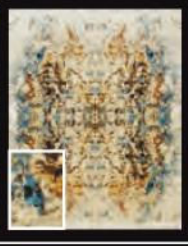

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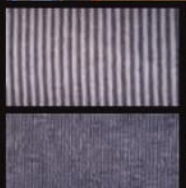

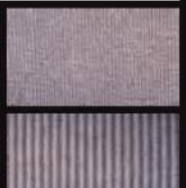

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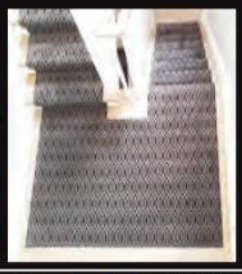

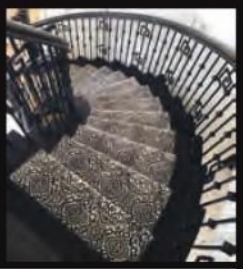

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PLEASING **PAGES**

Style at Home has been my addiction for more years than I can remember, and I thought the July 2016 issue was the best one yet. The varied architectural styles, interiors, colour combinations and locations scattered throughout its pages were simply food for my soul – inspiring and visually delightful.

VALENCIA CURKEN, KELOWNA, BC

MODERN **GARDENER**

Indoor plants and terrariums have recently piqued my interest. The May 2016 article on houseplants ("Turning a New Leaf," page 70) served as a great visual reference for adding low-maintenance and exotic varieties to my condo's living space. I've never had a green thumb, but I hope this article is the push I need to get started.

ENESSA, VIA EMAIL

HAPPINESS **PROJECT**

I thoroughly enjoyed reading *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin's letter in the July 2016 issue (page 10). What a lovely reminder that beautiful moments are not only achieved at a great expense or in foreign lands. Instead, they are available to us every day if we seize the moment and use our imaginations. Bliss is just an idea away.

VICKIE VAN DYKE, VIA EMAIL

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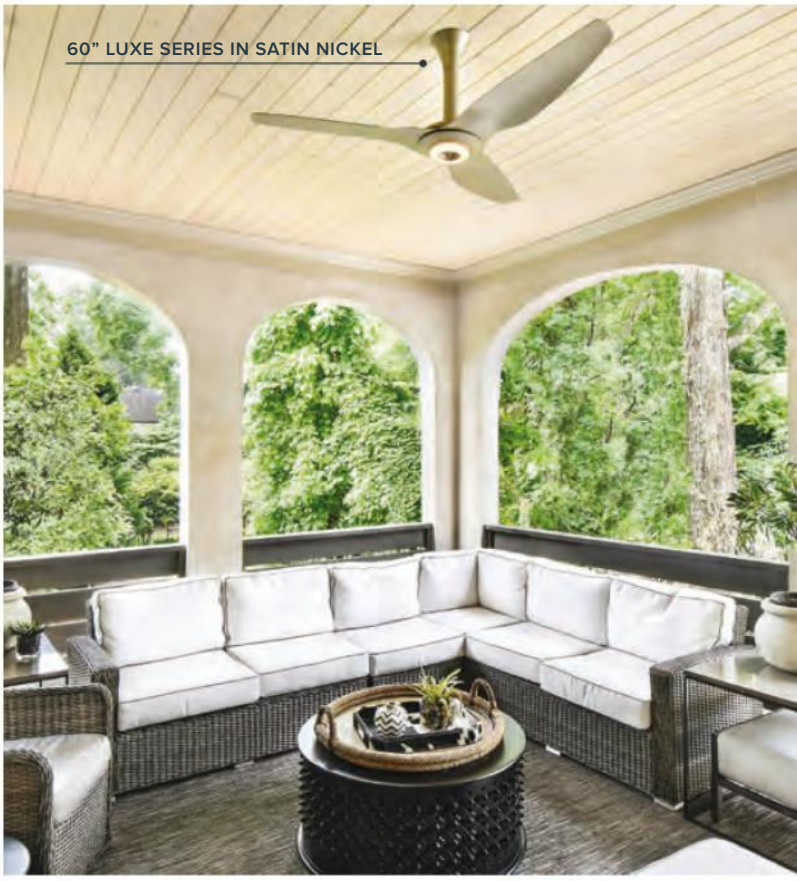

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style news

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PAINT PALETTE OF THE MONTH

MARIE ANTOINETTE P5097-24, Para Paints, para.com.

CALAMINE 230, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

ICED MAUVE 2115-50, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

Behr **ROYAL GOLD** M280-4, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

lilac love

It's not every day you see a lilac vanity – a testament to designer Tara Fingold's decorative daring. Cool marble and warm brass accents are the only complements the sweet hue needs.

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIRGINIA MACDONALD; DESIGN, TARA FINGOLD, TARAFINGOLD.COM

PULL-Y SYSTEM

HERE'S AN EASY UPDATE IDEA: SWAP YOUR DRESSER OR VANITY HARDWARE FOR SOMETHING NEW AND WATCH THE ROOM'S WHOLE AESTHETIC SHIFT. WHETHER YOU DECIDE TO SAVE OR SPLURGE IS UP TO YOU.

◀ Metal and marble Blocked **KNOB,** $18 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

▲ Solid brass Pinkerton **HANDLE** in Unlacquered Brass, 6″, $441, Waterworks, waterworks.com.

Los Clasicos cotton Hojas Cubanas **FABRIC** in Rainforest, $29 per yard, Tonic Living, tonicliving.com.

Los Clasicos cotton Intersections **FABRIC** in Steam, $26 per yard, Tonic Living, tonicliving.com.

ORDER SOME GORDER

Is there anything decor-world darling Genevieve Gorder can't do? As evidenced by these on-trend graphic samples from her first fabric line, Los Clasicos, apparently not. Happily, true to her accessible style, these beauties are super affordable, too.

A IS FOR ACORN

With such pretty smooth exteriors, acorns are not for squirrelling away – they're for putting on display! Taking its cue from the natty nuts, **THIS NORWEGIAN-DESIGNED PENDANT LIGHT IS ELEGANT IN ITS SIMPLICITY,** making it a versatile piece that will suit nearly every room and every style.

Northern Lighting painted aluminum and oak Acorn **PENDANT LIGHT** in Gray, $1,165, Vivid Concepts, vividconcepts.ca.

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Lacquered engineered wood 5-drawer Audrey **DRESSER,** $1,259, West Elm, westelm.com.

Five spacious drawers make this fun piece functional.

THE GOLDEN TOOL

A WOMAN'S BEAUTY ROUTINE IS ONLY AS GOOD AS HER TOOL BOX, AND WE SAY, GO FOR THE GOLD. HERE ARE THE TOP FIVE BEAUTY MUST-HAVES EVERY WOMAN SHOULD HAVE TO ENSURE A PICTURE-PERFECT FINISH EVERY TIME.

1. NIPPERS

No time for the nail bar? Give your mani-pedis the pro finish with these sharp-edged nippers that help you easily clean away dry skin, hangnails and excess cuticles.

2. NAIL FILE

A luxe file goes a long way when perfecting the latest shape. File in one direction with this durable, easy-to-grip version you can tote on-the-go.

3. LASH CURLER

A top-notch, titanium-coated curler will crimp your lashes without tugging or pulling, and leave you with a flattering, eye-opening look all day long.

4. TWEEZERS

Get pesky stray hairs to hit the road with tweezers that have a slanted tip that comes to an ultra-sharp point—a must-have for the most precise results.

5. CLIPPERS

Groom nails in a snap with a handy double-ended clipper that creates straight or rounded nails and toenails.

BEAUTY AND THE BROW

One of the biggest golden rules of beauty? Framing your face with perfected arches to ensure a balanced look. Grab your best tweezers and take notes:

1 **Always pluck hairs with a slanted tweezer from the bottom and fill in your brows from the top for the most flattering, lifted look.**

2 **While it's always fine to tweeze strays above your nose, leave the fullest part of your brows—where they begin, a.k.a. "the anchor"—alone to maintain a fresh, full appearance.**

3 **Aging brows can benefit from having the last few hairs from their "tail" end removed for an instant face-lift effect. Use extra-pointed tweezers for ultra-precision.**

TOWEL TRICK

HOW DO YOU INFUSE A BATHROOM'S MANY HARD SURFACES WITH PERSONALITY? ADDING THESE COLOUR-BLOCKED WAFFLE-WEAVE TERRY-CLOTH TOWELS WILL DO THE TRICK.

Scholten & Baijings for Hay Denmark cotton **BATH TOWELS,** $46 each, The Modern Shop, themodernshop.ca.

ON THE RAILS

When form meets function, our hearts go aflutter. Allowing homeowners to add a handheld spray head to their existing rough-in without a plumber, **SHOWER RAILS ARE EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMICAL.** This version of the versatile system, a first for Moen, is so attractive we might just need a cold shower!

Annex **SHOWER RAIL SYSTEM** in Chrome, $624, Moen, moen.ca.

THE CAPE IS CALLING

DURAVIT, A CENTURIES-OLD GERMAN BATH OUTFITTER, CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN NORTH AMERICA – A GREAT EXCUSE TO INVEST IN ONE OF THE COMPANY'S TIMELESS PIECES, SUCH AS THE CAPE COD BATHTUB DESIGNED BY ITS RENOWNED LONG-TIME COLLABORATOR PHILIPPE STARCK.

Free-standing Cape Cod **BATHTUB,** $5,669, Duravit, duravit.us.

Turn to page 98 for eight more sleek widespread faucets we're crushing on.

BAUHAUS IN THE HOUSE

Inspired by the early 1900s Bauhaus movement, which walked the line between art and architecture, this lavatory faucet has roaring good style.

Widespread brass Litze **FAUCET** in Luxe Gold with Industrial Lever handles, $1,134, Brizo, brizo.com.

5031 Statuario Maximus
BRING YOUR DREAM
KITCHEN TO THE SURFACE.
Introducing Caesarstone's 2016 Collection.
Experience it first at caesarstone.ca
the best stone is
caesarstone

1

2

Personalize your gallery wall with a photography print of your favourite travel destination.

3

4

5

beachy neutrals

The combination of soft sand and watery aqua is the perfect transition-to-fall palette. **PRODUCER** AMANDA ETTY

inspiration

A minidress in a cool aqua shade from Stella McCartney's Resort 2016 collection.

10

Store your jewellery in this watercolour art-inspired bowl.

9

8

Display a coffee table book that incites wanderlust.

7

1 Crocheted raffia Leah **CLUTCH** in Natural with leather strap and tassel, $125 US, Mar Y Sol, shopmarysol.com.

2 Sandy San Franciscan Steps **PRINT** with frame in White Premium Wood, from $31 US, Minted, minted.com.

3 Stainless steel Deuce **PITCHER/WATERING CAN** in Mint, $70, Umbra Shift, umbrashift.com.

4 Woven abaca Yountville **PENDANT LIGHT,** $450 US, Serena & Lily, serenaandlily.com.

5 Style at Home Collection queen cotton Alcazar **DUVET SET,** $200, cotton/sateen **SHEET SET,** $130, and **LUMBAR CUSHION,** 14″ x 20″, $55, Sears, sears.ca.

6 Borrowed Light 235 **PAINT** (top), Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com; White Sand OC-10 **PAINT,** Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

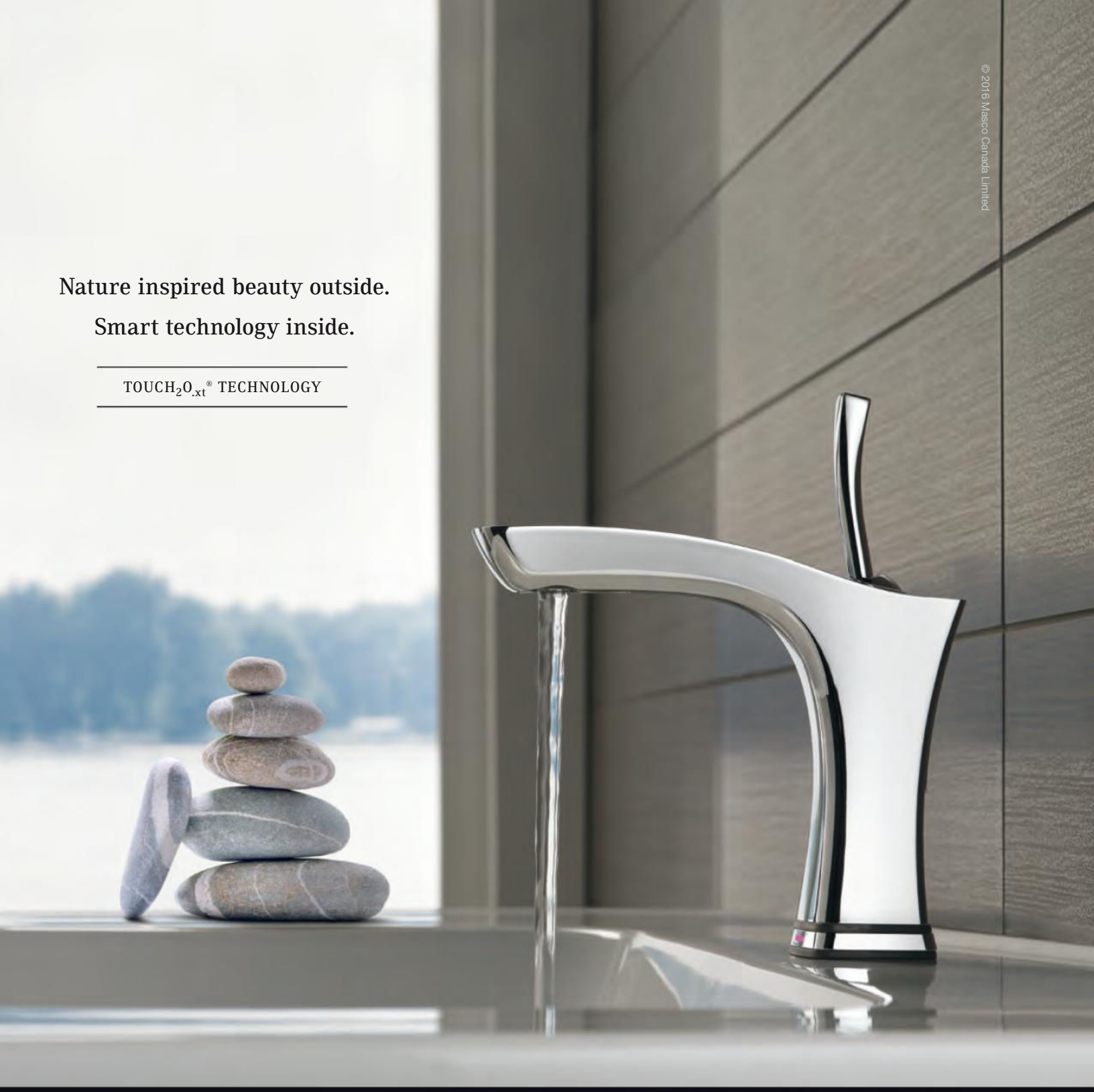
7 Cotton Cozy **BLANKETS** in Alpine White and Sea Spray, $198 US each, Coyuchi, coyuchi.com.

8 *Beaches* **BOOK** by Gray Malin, $50, Abrams Books, abramsbooks.com.

9 Stoneware Mimira **NUT BOWL,** $24 US per set of 2, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

10 Solid beech Assembly **BAR STOOL** in White Wash, $199, EQ3, eq3.com.

6



Inspired by organic shapes found in nature, the Tesla Collection lends a soft modern style to the bathroom. The collection includes a freestanding tub filler and lavatory faucets with optional Touch$_2$O$_{.xt}$ Technology that allows you to touch anywhere on the faucet to start and stop the water flow – or even go hands-free.

DELTA
see what Delta can do™

@DeltaFaucetCAN DeltaFaucetCAN

deltafaucet.ca

Paula Rowan bespoke leather gloves are owned by the likes of famed actress Helen Mirren.

Browse the vintage finds and authentic Irish wares at Scout.

Must-try

Number of days to spend here

3

IRELAND

EDITOR'S ITINERARY: Dublin

Style at Home's home & style director, Ann Marie Favot, gets her Irish on in this young-at-heart ancient city filled with inspiration.

DAY 1

Check into **The Morrison Hotel,** ideally situated on the banks of the River Liffey in the city centre. It's a short walk from here to a ton of Dublin's main attractions, including shopping and nightlife. Stretch your legs by taking a stroll south of the river to **The Library of Trinity College Dublin** to have a gander at the Book of Kells, the stunning illuminated medieval manuscript that is one of Ireland's greatest treasures. Then wander through the maze of ancient streets that make up the vibrant Temple Bar neighbourhood just west of Trinity College. If you're lucky enough to be here on a Saturday, start at the **Temple Bar Food Market (9)** and indulge in fresh scones, cheeses, breads and other snacks you can take back to the hotel (or eat right there!). Do some serious browsing in the pretty boutiques along Cow's Lane and in the surrounding area, particularly on Drury, William and Clarendon streets. **Scout (5), Cow's Lane Designer Studio, Paula Rowan (1), The Garden (7), Find (8)** and the **Irish Design Shop** all feature beautifully made goods to take home. Stop for a rest at **Avoca (4),** a divine family-run design shop/café, and then return to the hotel to put away your purchases before heading to the historic **Temple Bar** for a must-have dinner of oysters and Guinness, accompanied by traditional Irish music from a roster of engaging live bands.

DAY 2

Start your day with a walk to the **National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History,** located in Collins Barracks, an old army base dating to 1704. The museum houses a fine collection of artisanal Irish wares, including glass work, silverware and turned wood, as well as traditional furniture

PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY VAN BERKEL

The historic building that houses The Garden is just as pretty as the flowers sold inside.

pieces that speak to the country's domestic history. See the exhibition devoted to Irish Modernist pioneer Eileen Gray, which includes her groundbreaking adjustable chrome table and non-conformist chair.

Leaving the museum, head south across the river. Your destination is **Iveagh Gardens,** but take a detour by Saint Patrick's Cathedral to ogle this venerable 800-year-old institution. Before reaching the gardens, have lunch at nearby Drury Street's **Considered by Helen James,** where you'll dine at communal tables side by side with the locals. Owned by Dunnes Stores, the café also features a full range of designer Helen James's foodstuffs, tableware and accessories. **Industry & Co.,** a lifestyle decor store across the street, also includes a great café.

Carry on to Iveagh Gardens, one of Dublin's best hidden spaces, and lose yourself among the statuary, rockeries, fountains, waterfall and grotto. Small (you can see it all in about an hour) and free, this verdant garden was envisioned by famed landscape architect Ninian Niven in 1865. Soak up the atmosphere at this peaceful oasis as a counterpoint to the hustle and bustle beyond the gates.

Once you're revived by Ninian's horticultural genius, make your way back to the hotel for a rest before indulging in a late dinner on the roof terrace at **The Woollen Mills (6),** an elegant eatery situated in an old mill overlooking Ha'penny Bridge and the River Liffey.

DAY 3

A trip to Ireland isn't complete without enjoying a drink or two. Check out the **Teeling Whiskey Distillery** in the historic Liberties district to learn the history of Irish whiskey and do your own taste test. Don't leave without sampling the divine whiskey ice cream at the distillery's **Phoenix Café (3).** Then, if you can still walk, sign up for a tour with **Fab Food Trails** and enjoy an insider's look at the city's past and culinary heritage with one of the local guides.

Alternatively, if you're in Dublin on the last Sunday of the month, check out the **Dublin Flea Market (2)** for all kinds of antique and vintage knick-knacks.

Book in for dinner at **Ely Wine Bar,** which stocks more than 500 wines and boasts a "pasture to plate" selection of beef and pork dishes made from livestock raised at its owners' organic family farm. End your day at one of the nearby bars that feature live traditional Irish music.

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Skin Renewal Booster

Boost your skin's natural defenses.

Boost your skin's ability to renew.

Boost the results of your skincare products.

*Based on US home use consumer test on 62 women aged 25-59 after 8 weeks.
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THE POWER OF TWO

SUPERSTART Skin Renewal Booster is an ultra-light, fast-absorbing formula designed to work holistically to restore the healthy appearance of your skin's surface layer for supple, smoother, more resilient and radiant skin. Apply before your PREVAGE® serum for better results in reversing the signs of aging skin such as lines, wrinkles and uneven skintone caused by environmental assaults.

Proof... not Promises™

95% of women agree that SUPERSTART boosts the effectiveness of their skincare products.*

Elizabeth Arden
NEW YORK

what to PACK

Cool, misty Irish days call for practical pieces that work for changeable weather.

versatile vest

▶ Padded Maya **GILET** in Brown, $105 US, Horseware Ireland, horseware.com.

rain remover

▲ Printed Bubble **UMBRELLA** in Dulse Wave Print, $75, Hunter Original, ca.hunterboots.com.

time tracker

◀ Master Collection GMT **WATCH,** $2,900, Longines, longines.com.

frizz tamer

▲ Discipline travel-sized **HAIR-CARE PRODUCTS,** from $19 each, Kérastase Paris, kerastase.ca.

trendy take-along

▲ Limbo Multiwheel **SUITCASE** in Creme White, 22", $915, Rimowa, rimowa.com.

fabulous footwear

◀ Country Galway **BOOTS** in Walnut with ExtraFit, $549, Dubarry, dubarry-canada.ca.

PLAN YOUR OWN TRIP

The Morrison Hotel
morrisonhotel.ie

Trinity College Dublin Library
tcd.ie/visitors/book-of-kells/

Temple Bar Food Market
facebook.com/templebar-foodmarket

Scout
scoutdublin.com

Cow's Lane Designer Studio
cowslanedesigner-studio.ie

Paula Rowan
paularowan.com

The Garden
thegarden.ie

Find
findonline.ie

Irish Design Shop
irishdesignshop.com

Avoca
avoca.com

Temple Bar
thetemplebarpub.com

National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History
museum.ie

Iveagh Gardens
iveaghgardens.ie

Considered by Helen James
dunnesstores.com/considered-by-helen-james/home/fcp-category/home

Industry & Co.
industryandco.com

The Woollen Mills
thewoollenmills.com

Teeling Whiskey Distillery/Phoenix Café
teelingdistillery.com

Fab Food Trails
fabfoodtrails.ie

Dublin Flea Market
dublinflea.ie

Ely Wine Bar
elywinebar.ie

US clinical test, 52 women evaluated at *2 weeks and **8 weeks.
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POWER UP

Boost your way to beautiful skin

SUPERSTART
Skin Renewal Booster

Powered by probiotics and plant extracts, SUPERSTART naturally restores the healthy look of skin's surface layer. When added to your skincare routine, SUPERSTART is clinically proven to boost your results.

- **5X** boost in skin firming*
- **4X** boost in skin elasticity**
- **2X** boost in reducing visible lines and wrinkles*

Elizabeth Arden
NEW YORK

Anyone can master the art of making madeleines, *those little French bites of butter cake delight.* We're offering up a *sophisticated version* made with black sesame seeds and white chocolate to go with your afternoon cup of Earl Grey.

RECIPE
JENNIFER BARTOLI

PHOTOGRAPHY
MAYA VISNYEI

FOOD STYLING
CLAIRE STUBBS

PROP STYLING
ANN MARIE FAVOT

black sesame *madeleines*

A Masterpiece OF EFFORT.

To master the art of baking, you have to be willing to fail beautifully. After all, nothing melted nothing gained. And with their luxurious taste and melt-to-perfection goodness, new ***CHIPITS INSPIRATIONS Chocolate Chunks*** *will ensure that even if your triple-layer cake falls a little flat, the flavours will still rise to the occasion. Discover this and other inspiring recipes at hersheyskitchens.ca.*

Bake on.

INGREDIENTS

MAKES ABOUT 18

- ½ cup black sesame seeds, plus more for sprinkling
- 2 tbsp liquid honey
- 3 eggs
- ½ cup unsalted butter, melted
- ½ tsp pure vanilla extract
- ¾ cup all-purpose flour
- ⅓ cup granulated sugar
- ⅓ cup ground almonds
- ¼ tsp salt
- 75 g good-quality white chocolate, melted

Black sesame seeds are full of ***ESSENTIAL MINERALS*** *and are considered to have a ton of health benefits.*

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350°F. In a food processor, pulse the sesame seeds with the honey until a smooth paste forms, about 3 minutes; set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, butter and vanilla. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, ground almonds and salt; whisk the flour mixture into the egg mixture just until combined. Place 2 tablespoons of the batter in a small bowl; add 3 tablespoons of the sesame paste and stir until smooth. Stir the mixture back into the batter.

Spoon 1 heaping tablespoon of the batter into each greased madeleine mould. Bake until the edges of the madeleines are golden, about 12 minutes. Using the tip of a knife, gently loosen the madeleines from the pan and invert onto wire racks to cool completely.

Dip each madeleine halfway into the melted chocolate and sprinkle with a few sesame seeds. Refrigerate until the chocolate is set, about 10 minutes; serve.

#OWNIT

IS IT STILL A CRAVING IF I DON'T FEEL BAD?

DON'T JUST EAT IT. **OWN IT***.

*© 2016, Trademark of Kellogg Company used under licence by Kellogg Canada Inc.

sweet DREAMS

With ocean views and an abundance of natural light, this master bedroom dictated its own design direction: cozy coastal. Here's how designer Shea McGee of Studio McGee infused the space with a beach-inspired aesthetic.

hot hues

PAINT YOUR BEDROOM WALLS IN ONE OF STUDIO MCGEE'S FAVOURITE FOOLPROOF COLOURS.

Palladian Blue HC-144, Benjamin Moore, benjamin-moore.ca.

Classic Gray OC-23, Benjamin Moore, benjamin-moore.ca.

Simply White OC-117, Benjamin Moore, benjamin-moore.ca.

Hale Navy HC-154, Benjamin Moore, benjamin-moore.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN, STUDIO MCGEE, STUDIO-MCGEE.COM

DESIGNER SHEA MCGEE'S TOP 8 TIPS FOR ADDING COASTAL FLAIR TO YOUR BEDROOM.

1. **STICK WITH CALMING TONES** like blues, greens and greys for the walls.

2. **DON'T SELECT ANYTHING TOO THEME-Y** – add seaside style with textiles instead.

3. **CHOOSE FURNITURE THAT'S LIGHT AND AIRY.** Think pale woods, glass and metal, and nothing too bulky.

4. **MIX SUBTLE PATTERNS** to keep things interesting without overwhelming the room.

5. **USE LINEN FABRICS** for a relaxed look that doesn't feel too formal or stuffy.

6. **INCORPORATE ORGANIC ELEMENTS** like plants, branches and faux coral as a nod to the coast.

7. **HANG DRAPERY RIGHT TO THE CEILING** to give extra softness to the space.

8. **LAYER YOUR WINDOWS** with woven shades for a dose of texture.

serene nursery

Inspired by a sense of wanderlust, designer Sarah Walker of The Curated House creates a whimsical bedroom for her little one. Here's how to master the look.

TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI

PHOTOGRAPHY ASHLEY CAPP

LEND YOUR NURSERY TIMELESS STYLE BY GIVING OLD FURNITURE NEW LIFE. DESIGNER SARAH WALKER REVAMPED THIS SECONDHAND CRIB BY PAINTING THE SPINDLES WHITE AND ADDING A PRETTY SKIRT.

LACK CLOSED STORAGE? CORRAL BABY BLANKETS AND STUFFED ANIMALS IN LARGE WOVEN BASKETS WORTHY OF DISPLAY.

WITH FILES FROM LESLEY YOUNG; STYLING, MORGAN LINDSAY

CREATE A WELCOMING READING CORNER BY SHOWCASING CHILDREN'S BOOKS, AS WELL AS A FEW PLUSH TOYS AND TRAVEL-INSPIRED PRINTS, ON PICTURE LEDGES.

TAKE CUES FROM THIS DESIGN-SAVVY MOM AND OPT FOR A STYLISH ARMCHAIR THAT SWIVELS AND GLIDES (THINK OF IT AS A CLEVER TWIST ON THE CLASSIC ROCKING CHAIR).

DESIGN, The Curated House by Sarah Walker, thecuratedhouse.com; Creamy SW 7012 **WALL & CRIB PAINT,** Sherwin-Williams; **GLIDER,** CR Laine; **DRAPERY FABRIC,** Kravet Canada; **CRIB SKIRT,** Restoration Hardware; **PICTURE LEDGES,** IKEA; **RUG,** Kaarma; *Cloud Study* **ARTWORK** by A. Pell, *Bird 1* **ARTWORK** by Emma Nishimura, *Bocce* **ARTWORK** by Erin Vincent, Art Interiors; hand **PRINT** (in acrylic frame), Mitchell Black Home; framed butterfly **TAXIDERMY,** Bug Under Glass; felt rabbit **ANIMAL HEAD,** Faux Fauna; wood-plaque **PRINTS,** Big Bear + the Wolf; quilted **BLANKET,** Pehr Designs; ink-blot-print **TOSS CUSHION,** Indigo; **LUMBAR CUSHION,** West Coast Kids; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Lee Valley.

DON'T SHY AWAY FROM THE UNEXPECTED. HERE, A WALNUT OFFICE CABINET WAS UPDATED WITH A WATERFALL COUNTERTOP TO SERVE AS A TRENDY CHANGING TABLE.

▲ DaVinci Jenny Lind **CRIB** in White, $349, Ella + Elliot, ellaandelliot.com.

get the look

soothing & sophisticated

▼ Jute Raffia **BASKETS** in Navy Stripe, from $49 US each, Pottery Barn Kids, potterybarnkids.com.

▲ Auggie cotton cross-stitch **QUILT** in Grey, $150, West Coast Kids, westcoastkids.ca.

▶ Rifle Paper Co. Animal Parade **PRINT,** 8″ x 10″, $25, Gallery **FRAME** in White, 8″ x 10″, $25, Indigo, indigo.ca.

▼ Monte microfibre Como **GLIDER** in Pebble Grey with walnut base, $1,395, West Coast Kids, westcoastkids.ca.

▼ Wool blend Gems **RUG,** 5′ x 8′, $449, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.

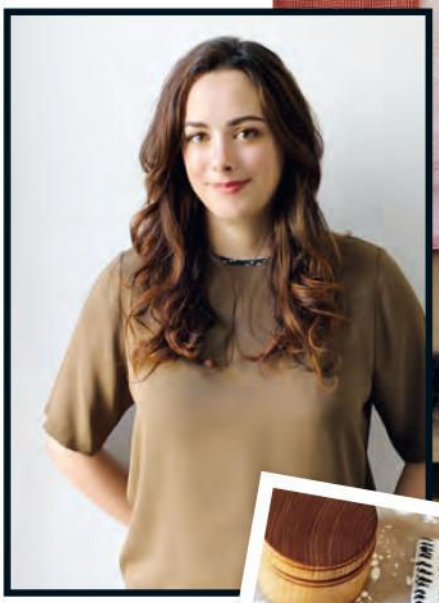
FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

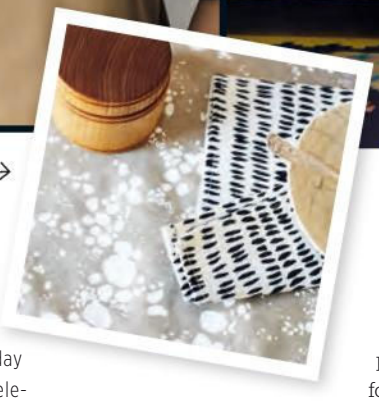
She's a rising design star, her products are something to covet, she just released the bible on pattern play – and here, she takes the time to chat with us about everything else she has in the works.

rebecca atwood

PRODUCER
SARA CATION

PHOTOGRAPHY
EMILY JOHNSTON





textural healing

Rebecca takes everyday organic textures and elevates them to artistry with her pretty painterly prints.

PRINTS CHARMING

Well, she's more of a prints princess, but her patterns are certainly charming. Based in Brooklyn, N.Y., designer Rebecca Atwood (pictured) is a budding It girl of the decor world, known for her eponymous home textiles line (featuring toss cushions, table linens, wallpapers, fabrics and more). She just released her first book, and we couldn't be more thrilled for the chance to learn the secrets to her signature style: livable patterns and relaxed luxury. In *Living With Pattern*, Rebecca proves that layering prints on prints on prints can indeed impart peace and, when employed thoughtfully, truly empower a home.

SENSITIVE TEETH?
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We're not your ordinary sensitivity toothpaste.†
We're on the job, sealing the openings to exposed nerves to help repair sensitive teeth.††

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#1 BRAND USED MOST BY DENTAL PROFESSIONALS.

†Colgate Sensitive Pro-Relief toothpaste provides superior sensitivity relief vs. ordinary sensitivity toothpaste containing 5% potassium nitrate (equivalent to 2% potassium ion).
††With regular use. Toothpaste also fights cavities. Colgate-Palmolive Canada Inc. *TM Reg'd/M.D.

INSPIRATION-A-GO-GO

What do Charleston, S.C., and Zihuatanejo, Mexico, have in common? They've both influenced Rebecca's work. Living in a big city, she's inspired on a daily basis – but even more so when she travels. "When you're out of your element, you're able to see things more clearly," she explains. The soft colours of Rebecca's Spring 2016 collection (shown above) capture the lush tones she fell for when visiting Charleston, while Spring 2017 is set to feature elements that caught Rebecca's eye when she was recently in Zihuatanejo for a family member's wedding. "I saw this colourful, stylized sun-moon *objet* on my hotel door," she says, "and started to paint my own concept of the sun-moon combo. It'll be featured in some of the fabrics I have coming out next year."

style snaps

Follow Rebecca on Instagram (@rebecca_atwood) and guess which of the everyday patterns she captures will appear in an upcoming collection. It's easy to see how these snaps from Charleston, S.C., influenced the prints in her Spring 2016 Gardner Collection.

Family Ties

"My mom [pictured, below] saved everything – vintage lace, dresses from the '20s," says Rebecca, who appreciates the importance of surrounding herself with items of personal significance. "It's about making a piece of your family's history a part of how you live now," she says, referencing an heirloom quilt in one of the homes featured in her book.

CREATIVE HANDIWORK

Whether Rebecca is sketching or painting – she travels with the supplies to do both – her top tools of the trade are her hands. "I typically can't come up with ideas just sitting at a computer," she says. "I have to start with a hands-on process where I allow myself to be creative and experiment, letting things flow naturally. It's just about getting started and putting marks on paper or fabric. Then things come to life." Beyond those basic tools, Rebecca likes working with India ink as well as gouache paints ("They're like watercolours but are more opaque and have a matte finish," says the artist). She also loves Muji sketchbooks – unless she's working directly on fabric, and if so, she favours natural materials.

on-the-go art

Never knowing where or when inspiration will hit, Rebecca carries her sketchbook with her almost everywhere. Follow her hashtag #RAsketchbook on Instagram for more.

PITTER PATTERN

In *Living With Pattern*, Rebecca turns her favourite interiors into lessons about using pattern that you can easily adapt to your home. Her advice for making the living room shown at left your own? "Use a large neutral rug as your base and define the seating area by layering a smaller rug on top," she writes. She also says to play with texture and include woven textiles as well as wood and stone. "Remember that linear elements, such as the legs of a plant stand, can become pattern, too," she adds. "And keep fabric patterns simple and graphic to maintain the focus on the foundation."

Living With Pattern by Rebecca Atwood (Clarkson Potter, $43)

high OR low?

PHOTOGRAPHY XXX

We designed a luxe old-meets-new bathroom using both a flood and a trickle of cash flow. Can you tell the difference?

PRODUCERS STACY BEGG & MORGAN LINDSAY

TEXT MARY LEVITSKI

PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL NANGREAVES

STYLING ANDREA MCCRINDLE

HIGH $9,244

HIGH & LOW Behr Swiss Coffee 12 **WALL PAINT,** The Home Depot, homedepot.ca; **BATHTUB,** Taps Bath Centre, tapsbath.com; **FLOOR TILES,** Creekside Tile, creeksidetile.com; white faceted **VASE,** HomeSense, homesense.ca; black glass **CARAFE & TUMBLER,** IKEA, ikea.ca; **CANDLE,** Indigo, indigo.ca.

$375

1 Hudson Valley Lighting brass Colebrook 1041 **PENDANT LIGHT** in Aged Brass, Universal Lamp, greatlighting.com.

$4,730

2 Gold-leafed carved wood Empire-style **MIRROR,** Barrymore Furniture, barrymorefurniture.com.

$139

3 Unisex cotton Antiochia **BATHROBE** in Grey & White, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com.

$399US

4 Carrara marble and antique-brass-finished iron Darcy **SIDE TABLE,** Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

$699

5 Hand-carved oak and linen Louis **SIDECHAIR,** Art Shoppe, theartshoppe.com.

$43

6 Style at Home Collection three-ply ring-spun cotton **BATH TOWEL,** $26, and **HAND TOWEL,** $17, both in White, Sears, sears.ca.

$34

7 Hammam-style cotton Antiochia **HAND TOWEL** in Grey & White, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com.

$2,425

8 Brass floor-mounted Traditional **TUB FILLER** in Champagne Bronze with cross handle, Delta Faucet, deltafaucet.ca.

$400

9 Framed *Harmony* **ARTWORK** by H. Kalisher, 24″ x 24″, Barrymore Furniture, barrymorefurniture.com.

LOW $3,936

$120

1 Polished brass-plated steel geometric **PENDANT LIGHT,** CB2, cb2.com.

$810

2 Gold-leafed metal and MDF Valonia **MIRROR,** Barrymore Furniture, barrymorefurniture.com.

$60

3 Unisex washed linen **BATHROBE** in Light Grey, H&M, hm.com.

$299

4 Carrara marble and steel Solo **SIDE TABLE** in Gold, Shelter, shelterfurniture.ca.

$299

5 Lacquered oak and linen blend Louis **SIDECHAIR** in Beige, Structube, structube.com.

$35

6 Canadian Living one-ply ring-spun Egyptian cotton **BATH TOWEL,** $20, and **HAND TOWEL,** $15, both in White, Bed Bath & Beyond, bedbathandbeyond.ca.

$8

7 Hammam-style cotton **HAND TOWEL,** per pair, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$2,199

8 Rubinet brass Raven **TUB FILLER** in Satin Brass with cross handles, Taps Bath Centre, tapsbath.com.

$106

9 Untitled 1 **PRINT** by Jaime Derringer on standard paper, 18″ x 24″, $81 US, Minted, minted.com; fibreboard Virserum **PICTURE FRAME** (painted), 20″ x 28″, $25, IKEA, ikea.ca.

buy it for
dirty paws
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under the influence

Harking back to the late 19th century, **free-standing cast iron clawfoot bathtubs** flooded the decor world roughly a decade ago. The traditional tub has enjoyed a variety of modern manifestations and manipulations. One trend we're particularly fond of is painting the tub's exterior black, a clever DIY that adds a dramatic edge. But Oceania has done one better: The Milano bathtub replicates the look without the work, and (bonus!) it's made of acrylic, so it's lightweight, easing installation.

We love these charcoal fish-scale-shaped tiles, the new wave of concrete flooring.

Oceania Influence free-standing acrylic Milano **BATHTUB** in White & Black, $2,299, Taps Bath Centre, tapsbath.com; Arto handmade concrete Conche **FLOOR TILES** in Charcoal Gray with smooth finish, $18 per sq. ft., Creekside Tile, creeksidetile.com.

TERRY TRIAL

Whatever your style, a set of lush **white terry towels** is essential to bath time. Don't let this simple staple fool you: All towels may look alike, but higher quality means a better feel as well as superior performance and durability. So read the fine print before making your pick – regardless of your budget.

HIGH

$70

Double-sided cotton Portofino **FACE CLOTH,** $13, **HAND TOWEL,** $23, and **BATH TOWEL,** $34, all in White, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com.

$56

Style at Home Collection double-sided three-ply ring-spun cotton **FACE CLOTH,** $13, **HAND TOWEL,** $17, and **BATH TOWEL,** $26, all in White, Sears, sears.ca.

$45

Canadian Living double-sided one-ply ring-spun Egyptian cotton **FACE CLOTH,** $10, **HAND TOWEL,** $15, and **BATH TOWEL,** $20, all in White, Bed Bath & Beyond, bedbathandbeyond.ca.

$27

Springmaid one-sided two-ply combed Egyptian cotton **FACE CLOTH,** $6, **HAND TOWEL,** $9, and **BATH TOWEL,** $12, all in White, Walmart, walmart.ca.

LOW

mirror, mirror

Our luxe loo gets its undeniable grandeur from the large **gold-framed mirror.** Similar vintage-style looking glasses are popping up everywhere, and we've taken the liberty of rounding up a few of our faves. Whether you prefer ornate ornamentation or minimal embellishment, we've got an option for you. Good luck picking the fairest of them all!

1 Gold-leafed metal and MDF Valonia, 42″ x 59″, $810, Barrymore Furniture, barrymorefurniture.com; **2** gold-leafed wood Louis Philippe Gilt, 34″ x 56″, $545 US, Restoration Hardware, rh.com; **3** Iron Gleaming Primrose in Gold, 39″ x 39″, $398 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com; **4** Made Goods gold-leafed wood Philippe, 30″ x 64″, $1,575, The Cross Decor & Design, thecrossdesign.com.

HOT FOR HAMMAM

When a popular piece transcends trendy to become timeless, the decor world benefits. Such is the case with the crowd-pleasing peshtemal, or **hammam towel,** a go-to that bears all the makings of a classic. With origins in Turkish bathhouses, it's traditionally handmade from organic fibres in muted tones and features tassel edging and decorative stripes for a touch of frill. This towel is also flat-woven and compact but dries fast and wicks moisture well. Best of all, it's equally at home in the kitchen and in the bath.

Hammam-style cotton Antiochia **HAND TOWEL** in Grey & White, $34, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com; Le Bouquet de Lili **BAR SOAP,** $7, Lothantique, lothantique.ca.

get your fill

Can't get enough of that antique aesthetic? Boasting an aged-brass finish, a traditional telephone-style shower head, chic cross handles and white enamel-look details, this curvaceous tub filler has it in spades.

Rubinet brass Raven **TUB FILLER** in Satin Brass with cross handles, $2,199, Taps Bath Centre, tapsbath.com.

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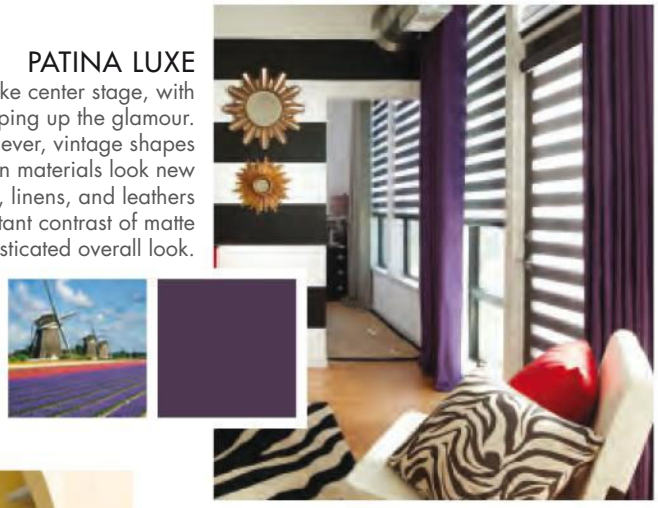
PATINA LUXE

Texture and shine take center stage, with jewel-like accents amping up the glamour. Now more than ever, vintage shapes executed in modern materials look new and fresh. Velvets, linens, and leathers provide the all-important contrast of matte and gloss for a sophisticated overall look.



MODERN GEOMETRY

Bold patterns and shapes executed in a brighter palette are anything but staid. The look is eclectic, with artisanal patterns and geometric shapes clashing—in a good way. Black and white temper the riot of colors and help anchor the space.

GLOBAL ARTISTRY

Inspired by travel and adventure, the trend is a modern take on global patterns, fabrics, and crafts. It's all in the mix. Embroidery, caning, animal hides, even macramé, give a handcrafted, organic feel to accessories. Soft pastels contrast with deep blues and greys. Ethnic accents complete the look.

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TEXT
BRITTANY DEVENYI

PHOTOGRAPHY
DONNA GRIFFITH

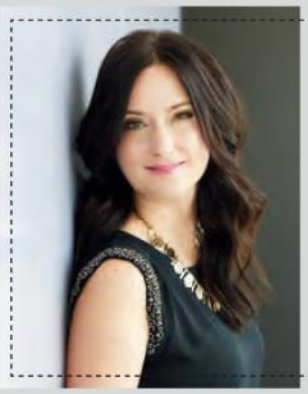
STYLING
CHRISTINE HANLON

Master of Harmony

With sophisticated touches and unexpected layers of warmth, this home's master bedroom and ensuite demonstrate that a neutral scheme is anything but boring.

styleathome

Editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin curated her favourite hues in the **Beauti-Tone Paint Style at Home Country Colour Collection 2.**



OLDENBURG FD083-0

Erin loves how this blue-grey paint acts as a sophisticated neutral backdrop for any setting, from modern to traditional.

tip: Make an inexpensive piece of furniture appear custom by painting it the same shade as your wall. This coffee table was given an extra decorator's touch with the addition of a complementary colour: **Hudson FD099-0.**

Beauti-Tone
CANADA'S COLOUR EXPERTS

Available exclusively at Home Hardware and Building Centre locations.
Actual paint colour may not be as shown. **beauti-tone.ca**

After purchasing a semi-detached dwelling in one of Toronto's sought-after midtown neighbourhoods, this young couple quickly abandoned the home's wonky layout and dated decor in order to welcome the opposite: a clean-lined, contemporary and predominately white interior. The challenge then became making the monochromatic scheme come alive. The solution? The expert touch of Croma Design's Ryan Martin and Amy Kent. "The homeowners wanted a house that was modern but not stuffy or sterile," says Ryan. Here, we look to the three-storey abode's master bedroom and ensuite for decor lessons that might just have you embracing a neutral palette and kicking colour to the curb.

1. Black Beauty During the reno, designers Ryan Martin and Amy Kent opted for an expansive window with distinct black framing. "We could have done a white frame, but adding that touch of black gives life and character to the otherwise clean-looking master bedroom," says Ryan. This design choice also draws attention to the property's verdant back garden.

2. Textural Touch Thanks to its rich woven quality, the grasscloth-clad accent wall is the understated showpiece of the room. Says Ryan: "You can see the seams where the wallpaper lines up, but that's what shows off the material's texture and embellishes the look."

3. Floor Goals When it was time to decide where to splurge, the homeowners knew they couldn't do without oil-finished oak flooring, which is carried throughout the house. The timeless grey-brown shade anchors the space and lends an additional layer of warmth.

4. Closet Envy A wall of custom built-in closets is any homeowner's dream, but that's not to say function should come before style. In addition to providing ample storage, these units feature subtle moulding that adds architectural presence to the bedroom. Similar built-in wardrobes also flank the hallway that leads to the ensuite.

Cosmopolitan life in the busy city is more manageable if you are surrounded by straight lines. **GROHE Eurocube Joy** evokes the dynamic lifestyle of busy people and celebrates the dramatic beauty of the cube. The clear sense of rigour is exemplified by **GROHE's FeatherControl** joystick cartridge technology.
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DESIGN, Croma Design, croma-design.com; **CONTRACTING,** Vaughan Construction Management; Decorator's White CC-20 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore.

BEDROOM: Custom **CABINETRY,** Gibson Greenwood; **WALLPAPER,** Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics; **BED FRAME, NIGHTSTAND, BENCH, RUG,** Elte; **WINDOW,** Ridley Windows & Doors; **DRAPERY FABRIC,** Threadcount Textile & Design; **DRAPERY SEWING,** Alleen's Custom Window Treatments; **WARDROBES** (in hallway), IKEA; **BEDDING,** Au Lit Fine Linens; **FLOORING,** Relative Space; flush-mount **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Dark Tools; **SCONCE,** Crate and Barrel; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Upper Canada Specialty Hardware.

BATHROOM: **WASHSTAND, MIRRORS,** Restoration Hardware; **WALL & FLOOR TILES,** Ciot; **SCONCES,** Elte; **FAUCETS,** Roman Bath Centre; sphere-shaped **SCULPTURE,** CB2; **WASTE BASKET,** Ginger's.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

5. Metal Movement

"It was important to design a nice, clean bathroom that wasn't too stark," says Ryan, speaking to his and Amy's decision to include bright brass-finished elements like the sconces and mirrors. Overall, the contrasting metallic pieces add a touch of glitz.

6. Shape-Shifter

To establish an elegant-meets-edgy look, the design duo used Carrara marble throughout in various shapes, such as rectangular wall tiles and hexagonal floor tiles. "We even used a dark grout to enhance the formats of the tiles," says Ryan.

7. Fixture Act

It's often the subtle details that make or break the look of a space. The key, explains Ryan, is to create cohesion. For this modern ensuite, the designers strategically chose metal faucets that coordinate with the other dark accents in the room – including the shower door hinges.

8. Vanity Rules

The stylish washstand was the starting point for the space's contemporary scheme and helped steer the clients away from an all-white aesthetic. "The washstand's Carrara marble top has soft grey undertones, which add depth to the look," says Ryan.

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Three stylish bathrooms to inspire and inform, whether you want to quickly freshen up your space or make a huge splash with long-term appeal.

3 bathrooms THAT BECKON

PHOTOGRAPHY, JUNIOS/NOODLAY

1 VINTAGE BLEND

SOOTHING PALETTE + SUBWAY TILE WAINSCOTTING + HERRINGBONE MARBLE FLOOR + VINTAGE-LOOK TOUCHES

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JANIS NICOLAY

The vanity's open shelves and extra counter space provide spots to place decorative items and bath-time essentials.

TUB LIFE The free-standing bathtub is a sculptural, contemporary element. "It's large enough to relax and bathe in, but it's not so big that it overwhelms the space," says one of the homeowners. The simple linen café curtains offer privacy while keeping the tops of the windows uncovered, allowing for pretty treetop views.

Steel-framed mirrors and simple sconces, which are actually picture lights, inject a retro-industrial vibe.

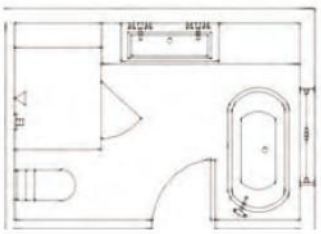
"Balance" was the operative word when Sophie Burke and Jennifer Millar created the master bathroom in this new-build Vancouver house. The homeowners wanted the space to emulate an airy retreat – something spa-like but not too fussy. So the designers injected the room with traditional character and contemporary clean lines – a timeless combination showcased throughout the home (see "If You Build It...," page 76), which the duo designed as well. They also incorporated equal amounts of sleek and textural elements and functional and decorative features for an interesting yet well-balanced result.

NEW SCHOOL In lieu of the usual two sinks, designers Sophie Burke and Jennifer Millar used one oversized basin with two wall-mounted faucets. "The sink is shallow enough so that the top drawers of the vanity actually open," says one of the homeowners. Wainscotting, created out of ceramic subway tiles that continue from the shower, offers texture and character. "We used dark grout and added a chair rail detail throughout, which contribute to the space's vintage look."

GLASS HOUSE Forgoing a curb in the glass-enclosed shower, made possible by sloping the floor toward the drain, creates a streamlined feel. "We were able to do that because the house is a new construction," says Sophie. This application also lets the herringbone marble-tiled floor run right through without being interrupted. "It's a really nice detail," she adds.

DESIGN, Sophie Burke Design, sophieburkedesign.com; **CONTRACTING,** custom **VANITY,** Eyco Building Group; Cloud White CC-40 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **WALL TILES,** Daltile; Lunch at Tiffany's P5219-24 **VANITY PAINT,** Para Paints; **COUNTERTOP,** Caesarstone Canada; **BATHTUB, SHOWER FIXTURES,** Blu Bathworks; **SINK,** Duravit; **FAUCETS,** Newport Brass; custom **CAFÉ CURTAINS,** The Natural Textile Company; **FLOOR TILES,** Centanni Tile; **MIRRORS, KNOBS,** Restoration Hardware; **PICTURE LIGHTS,** The Urban Electric Co.; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Arteriors Home.

94 SQUARE FEET



2

CLEAN CONTEMPORARY

HIGH-CONTRAST PALETTE + MODERN TEAK VANITY + HEAD-TO-TOE TILES + MINIMALIST FLOURISHES

TEXT DONNA NEBENZAHL | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MONIC RICHARD | **STYLING** NICOLA MARC

OLD AND NEW The homeowners instantly fell in love with this Mid-Century Modern teak sideboard and wanted to use it for their bathroom. So architect Yannick Laurin transformed it into a vanity by adding a Corian sink. "To avoid detracting from the basin's clean lines, we opted for a sleek wall-mounted faucet," says Yannick. The furniture piece adds warmth to the entirely tiled space, while the custom five-door mirrored medicine cabinet visually expands the room and provides plenty of storage.

The shower area was built without a partition to increase the feeling of openness.

Bright and spacious were Erin and Bill Klein's most important requirements for the overhaul of their family bathroom, part of a whole-house renovation led by Yannick Laurin of La Shed Architecture. The tiny windowless space on the second floor of their early-1900s Montreal duplex was enlarged to accommodate a bathtub, vanity and walk-in shower, which boasts a back wall topped with glass to let light flow in. Yannick delivered a look that blends contemporary styling and timeless appeal, a perfect complement to the rest of the house.

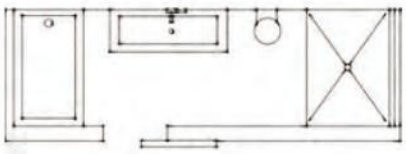
The square wall tiles that surround the bathroom exude a retro vibe, an aesthetic these homeowners love.

SUNNY DISPOSITION The dark bathroom was transformed into a light-filled space by inserting glass into the top two feet of the nine-foot-high shower wall, which is shared with the bright family room. The tiled floor extends into the walk-in shower for a seamless look, and the metal shelf provides handy shower storage.

HIGH CONTRAST The simple four-inch-square white porcelain wall tiles – arranged in an offset brick pattern and grouted with grey – contrast beautifully with the small-scale black floor tiles, creating a sleek backdrop for the room's showpiece: the timeless vanity. Under-floor heating, an unseen yet much-appreciated feature, keeps things cozy any time of the year.

DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE, La Shed Architecture, lashedarchitecture.com; **WALL & FLOOR TILES,** Ciot; **TOILET,** Duravit; custom **SINK,** Summum Granit; **SHOWER FIXTURES, FAUCET,** American Standard; **TOWELS, BATH PRODUCTS,** Qui Dort Dîne; **FLOWERS, VASE,** Fauchois Fleurs.

80 SQUARE FEET



3

SOPHISTICATED CHARM

HANDSOME MUTED PALETTE + BESPOKE VANITIES + SHINY CHROME FIXTURES + LOTS OF MARBLE

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANGUS FERGUSSON

DOUBLE UP Combining the under-mounted soaker tub and spacious shower in one glass-enclosed wet room takes up less space than having these elements in separate spots. For privacy, designer Cameron MacNeil had the window's glass frosted and added a Roman shade in a pretty blue hue, which picks up the cool undertones of the tiles throughout the bathroom.

Placing the vanities – one for him, one for her – on opposing walls works perfectly with this room's wide, rectangular shape.

PHOTOGRAPHY XXXXXXXXXX

The faux-bamboo mirror lends a decorative touch.

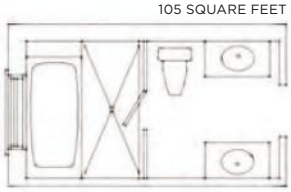
Thinking outside the proverbial bathroom box added undeniable wow factor to this timeless master ensuite, part of an addition the homeowners built onto their 1940s Toronto abode a year ago. Designer Cameron MacNeil, who was involved with the entire house renovation, eschewed a typical bathroom layout by enclosing the tub and shower in one area. "It's nice to be able to keep both close to the window for natural light," says Cameron. Streamlined elements, a handsome grey and white palette and an abundance of marble enhance the space's classic, luxurious aesthetic.

TWIN PERKS The vanities boast a dresser-like appearance and offer tons of storage. "It's very convenient after taking a bath," says one of the homeowners. "We put towels in there and even clothes, so we don't have to walk around looking for things like pyjamas." The drawers have a slim Shaker-style profile, and the glass and chrome pulls add a modern flair. The flower-like mosaic marble floor injects a graphic element and provides an alternative to the typical hexagon pattern.

MATERIAL GIRL In the tub and shower area, the walls are lined with six-by-12-inch marble tiles – cut from 12-by-12-inch ones – laid in a brick pattern. They're a little bigger than your standard subway tiles, says Cameron. The white Caesarstone tub surround contrasts the marble and ties in with the vanities' countertops.

DESIGN, Cameron MacNeil, cameronmacneil.com; **CONTRACTING,** Sherwood Custom Homes; Moonshine 2140-60 **WALL PAINT,** Stonington Gray HC-170 **VANITY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **SHOWER WALL & FLOOR TILES,** Creekside Tile; **COUNTERTOPS, TUB SURROUND,** Caesarstone Canada; **BATHTUB,** Mirolin; **TOILET, FAUCETS,** Kohler; **SHOWER FIXTURES,** Mist Bath; **ROMAN SHADE FABRIC,** Kravet Canada; **ROMAN SHADE SEWING,** Blinds, Drapes and Bedding; **STOOL** (in shower), **HAMPER, TOWELS, PULLS, TRAYS, LIQUID SOAPS, BATH SALTS,** Ginger's; *The Blue Lion* **ARTWORK** by Adriyanna Zimmermann, Canvas Gallery; custom **MIRROR,** Custom Art Concepts; **SCONCES, HOOKS,** Restoration Hardware.

105 SQUARE FEET



FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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A trip to Ireland reveals the rich and storied past of our favourite decorating fabric.

TEXT SUZANNE MOUTIS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY VAN BERKEL

The lure of LINEN

the trip to bountiful

The Emerald Isle is known for many things – shamrocks, leprechauns and St. Patrick chief among them – but it's Ireland's history as a producer of the finest linen that makes it a hallowed destination for decor lovers. A product of the flax plant, linen has long captured the attention of design aficionados, conjuring up romantic visions of slouchy slipcovers and slubbed cushions in a whitewashed stone cottage by the sea, with soft time-worn sheets and rustic tea towels flapping on the clothesline out back. *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin and home & style director Ann Marie Favot eagerly packed their bags and ventured to Eire last year to experience first-hand the age-old craft of the region's talented linen makers. After visiting some of the family-run fabric factories that take linen from field to storefront, they discovered that visiting Ireland can indeed bring those visions to vibrant life.

the fabric of history

In Ireland, flax appears to have been cultivated as far back as 2,000 years ago and was probably brought to the island via Egypt by the Phoenicians, those intrepid ancient traders from the Levant. The early Irish people then continued the tradition of growing flax and separating the linen fibres from the plant stems, spinning and weaving the strands into fine fabric. Political factors influenced the production of linen during the 17th century, mostly to curb the exportation of Irish woollens, which was competing with the English trade. Later, while the cotton business was on the rise thanks in large part to technological advancements like the spinning jenny that made mass production easier, linen, by contrast, remained a cottage industry. It wasn't until the early 1800s that mechanized flax spinning took hold. The linen market rose and fell during the next 200 years or so but has enjoyed a resurgence in recent times, as consumers look for higher-quality natural fabrics. In Ireland, time-honoured companies like William Clark and Sons (founded in 1736 and Ireland's oldest linen fabric mill), Flax Mill Textiles and Thomas Ferguson Irish Linen have translated that desire to a niche industry that still speaks to the rich heritage of the region.

The ancient Egyptians are said to have called linen "WOVEN MOONLIGHT," and it's easy to see why.

DYE HOUSE
BLEACH HOUSE

woven in
northern
ireland

the finishing touch

For thousands of years, linen has been society's material of choice for uses as diverse as bookbindings, boat sails, nets, clothing and home textiles. In the decorating world, linen's natural lustre and superior absorbency, soft and smooth texture that increases with wear and ability to remain cool and fresh in warm weather has raised it to a position as the most desired of the natural fibre fabrics. Often used as lining in conjunction with other textiles (it makes the strongest threads for sewing), linen also stands firm on its own, adorning chairs, tables, windows and beds in all its luxurious glory. We believe there's no fabric as delicate and strong, as sophisticated and rustic, as rough and refined, as irresistibly touchable or as enduringly appealing.

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William Clark and Sons
wmclark.co.uk

Thomas Ferguson Irish Linen
fergusonsirishlinen.com

Ardtara Country House
ardtara.com

Flax Mill Textiles
flaxmill-textiles.com

Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum
lisburnmuseum.com

Tourism Ireland
ireland.com

PHOTOGRAPHY, ROBIN STUBBERT (LINEN CHAIR), JEFF COULSON (TABLETOP)

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PHOTOGRAPHY, ROBIN STUBBERT

SERENITY NOW

As the days get cooler and the leaves start to change, our thoughts turn to the interiors we've neglected over the summer months, when we've virtually lived outside. It's time to take advantage of that new chill in the air and dream about decorating (or redecorating) those cherished indoor spaces.

picture *perfect*

Designer Viki Mansell blends contemporary and rustic styles with tons of texture and original artwork to create a fabulous farmhouse retreat. **TEXT** CHRISTY WRIGHT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ROBIN STUBBERT

"In the living room, I wanted to create a convivial sitting area focused on the fireplace," says designer Viki Mansell.

DESIGN, Absolutely, absolutely-inc.com; **CONTRACTING,** Mooredale Contracting, SMK Construction; Shaded White 201 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; Distant Gray OC-68 **CEILING & TRIM PAINT** (throughout), Blacktop 2135-10 **DOOR PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **SOFA, COFFEE TABLE, TOSS CUSHIONS,** Absolutely; **FLOORING** (throughout), Mooredale Contracting; **RUG,** Elte; *Structure With Screen* **ARTWORK** by Holger Kalberg, Monte Clark Gallery.

OPPOSITE The bucolic surroundings inspired Viki's approach to the farmhouse's palette and design.

FAR LEFT Custom made from butternut, the living room sideboard features a black powder-coated steel base that ties in with the TV and the interior door, which Viki had painted black.

SIDEBOARD, Absolutely.

LEFT & BELOW The kitchen, featuring rift-cut oak veneer-fronted cabinets, limestone countertops and a hand-applied plaster backsplash, has a simple charm belying its luxury.

Distant Gray OC-68 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; custom **CABINETRY, BACKSPLASH, RANGE HOOD & BACK GUARD,** SMK Construction; **COUNTERTOPS,** Crystal Tile & Marble; **APPLIANCES,** Tasco; 19th-century egg engravings **ARTWORK** by Reverand Francis Orpen Morris, **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Absolutely; **FAUCET,** Ginger's.

BELOW A 19th-century carpenter's bench is used as a console and styled with modern pieces like a Tizio task lamp and Rothko poster in the mud room.

Shaded White 201 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; vintage wooden **WORKBENCH,** orange **BENCH, PRINT,** Absolutely; **FLOOR TILES,** Stone Tile International; **TASK LAMP,** Artemide.

In the dining room, a wooden trestle table combined with Italian leather chairs and a graphic light fixture capture the contemporary farmhouse aesthetic.

Shaded White 201 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **DINING TABLE, LIGHT FIXTURE,** Absolutely; **DINING CHAIRS,** Italinteriors; custom **SHELF,** SMK Construction; *Government Centre* **ARTWORK,** Simon Hughes; *Untitled #1* **ARTWORK** by Rob MacInnis, Mulherin.

"THE PALETTE was drawn from the surrounding countryside."

Viki Mansell has an indisputable take on artwork in the home: "You can have beautiful design, but if you have a ghastly piece of art, that's all anyone will look at." It's a conviction reflected in her two Toronto home furnishing stores, Absolutely and Absolutely North, which, in addition to offering furniture and decorative accessories, feature a range of artwork, from photographs and paintings to lithographs and drawings. "Most people are confident when picking out paint colours and furniture," says Viki, "but few train their eyes for buying art – especially when it's for a farmhouse." The farmhouse referred to here belongs to one of Viki's clients, an avid art collector, who enlisted the designer to transform a turn-of-the-century rural property into a picture-perfect retreat.

Situated north of Toronto, the 3,600-square-foot brick house was definitely in need of some serious loving care, but fortunately, its original floor plan required little finessing. So while the space was gutted to remedy old electrical, insufficient insulation and dated finishes, the staircase remained in its original position, and wherever possible, other features – such as the hardwood flooring upstairs, all the interior doors and the tongue-and-groove ceilings in the kitchen and dining room – were kept intact. Viki replaced the downstairs flooring, which

The living room's slate-fronted fireplace encapsulates Viki's take on turn of the century meets contemporary. "The mantel has a pared-back design, yet it's crafted from 19th-century pilasters," she says. The lithograph above the fireplace is by Spanish artist Antoni Tàpies.

ARMCHAIRS, ARTWORK by Antoni Tàpies, Absolutely.

LEFT A bathtub surround and vanity made of 150-year-old pine warm up the all-white second-floor bathroom.

Distant Gray OC-68 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; custom **VANITY, TUB SURROUND & TUB DECK,** SMK Construction; **BATHTUB, FAUCET,** Ginger's; **FLOOR TILES,** Stone Tile International; **MIRROR, SCONCE,** Absolutely.

RIGHT The antique rug was the jumping-off point for the master bedroom. "I wanted the room to be cozy, so I chose a warm red fabric for the headboard and bedskirt," says Viki.

Off-White 3 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **HEADBOARD, NIGHTSTAND, BEDSKIRT, SCONCE,** Absolutely; white **SHEET SET, EURO SHAMS,** Frette; **ARTWORK** by Philip Miller, Absolutely North.

couldn't be saved, with butternut planks sourced and prepared by an arborist. The only structural changes were the addition of a fireplace flanked by French doors in the living room and the repositioning of an upstairs wall. "We siphoned off square footage from one of the three bedrooms to increase the size of the second-floor bathroom," says Viki.

Once renovated, the house was ready to receive its artistic flourishes. "My vision was to maintain the farmhouse's structural integrity while infusing it with a modern rustic overlay," says Viki. This vision was inspired by the home's setting. "The palette was drawn from the surrounding countryside, so we highlighted the neutral walls with furnishings in caramel, burnt orange and maple red."

Viki's choice of furniture amplifies the contemporary mood. "Comfort was a priority, but the furniture is tailored – there's no overstuffing or rolled arms, just the simplicity of the lines," she says. It's a simplicity that extends to the windows on the main level, which were purposely left unadorned. "The homeowner didn't want window coverings to distract from the beautiful views outside and the artwork on the walls." It's apparent that art is an essential design element, as it's displayed everywhere from the dining and living rooms to less expected spots like above the bathtub and in the mud room. "While the artwork would look great anywhere, it truly complements this space," says Viki. "It belongs here." There's no debating that.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

A mix of textures lends interest to the upstairs hallway; the art by Ian Gray adds colour.

Distant Gray OC-68 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **CONSOLE,** The Door Store; **ARMCHAIR, RUG, TABLE LAMPS, LUMBAR CUSHION,** Absolutely.

RIGHT The small sitting room of this Vancouver home is closed off from the rest of the open-concept living space. A retreat where the family reads or the adults entertain, it's a spot for solitude in this otherwise ultra-active household.

DESIGN, Sophie Burke Design, sophieburkedesign.com; **ARCHITECTURE,** Alex Glegg Design; **CONTRACTING, MILLWORK** (throughout), Eyco Building Group; Lamp Room Gray 88 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; Cloud White CC-40 **MILLWORK PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **ARMCHAIRS,** BoConcept; **COFFEE TABLE, RUG,** Restoration Hardware; **FIREPLACE SURROUND TILES,** World Mosaic Tile; custom **WINDOW COVERINGS** (throughout), The Natural Textile Company; white oak **FLOORING** (throughout), European Touch Hardwood; *When She Is Away 2, 2015* **ARTWORK,** Bobbie Burgers; **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Brendan Ravenhill.

IF YOU BUILD IT...

It begins with a demolition and ends with a dream house: the story of how a young family went from starter home to forever home – without moving! – thanks to two talented and trustworthy designers.

TEXT SARA CATION | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JANIS NICOLAY

PHOTOGRAPHY XXXXXXXXXX

How to Build Your Dream House 101, a case study. Lesson One: Start from the ground up. When these homeowners (he's a lawyer, she's a nutritionist and stay-at-home mom) realized that the tiny Vancouver bungalow they'd been living in for the past 12 years was far too small for their family (which includes two growing boys, aged 9 and 10), they had it bulldozed. They loved their lot, but the home had never been renovated, and the foundation footprint needed to be expanded before they could go bigger – so demolition was the obvious option.

Lesson Two: Understand exactly what your dream house entails. Having lived on the property for more than a decade, the homeowners had crystal-clear ideas about how to make the most of the ample light and stunning views. Plus, they analyzed their lifestyle and knew what it demanded – a large open-concept living space (so the family could be close even when they're not in the same room); plenty of über-organized storage (since this super-sporty gang bikes, skis, swims and plays soccer); a quiet area away from the kids (because, well, *kids*); and a kitted-out kitchen for the wife, who's an avid home chef.

Lesson Three (and perhaps the most important of them all): Hire people you trust to deliver the dream. Enter Sophie Burke, whose sister introduced her to the wife (they're friends). "I felt Sophie would understand the needs of a young family and not make things too precious," says the wife. "I had seen her clean, elegant and sophisticated style on her Pinterest boards and in other projects she'd done and just knew that if I couldn't decide on something, I'd be happy with her choices."

"The homeowner is a really talented baker and cook. Her former kitchen was teeny tiny and cut off from the rest of the house, but she still came up with incredible creations," raves designer Sophie Burke. In the sprawling new space, with its ample storage, second oven and Magic Corner (to name just a few highlights), we can only imagine the meals this home chef now creates! (*Drool....*)

ABOVE & RIGHT The kitchen's herringbone-tiled walls offer a dramatic yet subtle look. The trendy pattern is grouted in grey for a more vintage vibe – a testament to the interplay of new world and old in the house.

Custom **CABINETRY,** Eyco Building Group; Cloud White CC-40 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **COUNTERTOPS,** Caesarstone Canada; **WALL TILES,** Olympia Tile + Stone; **APPLIANCES,** Midland Appliance; Off-Black 57 **ISLAND BASE PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **STOOLS,** Inform Interiors; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Örling & Wu; **FAUCETS,** Kohler; **POT FILLER,** Cantu Bathrooms & Hardware; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** House of Antique Hardware.

PHOTOGRAPHY XXXXXXXXX

The family didn't need a formal dining room, but they did desire a large space for hosting holiday dinners. So Sophie and her colleague, Jennifer Millar, selected a dining table that can extend to seat 16 and stashed an extra pair of chairs in the boys' rooms to accommodate more bums. The striking light fixture lends the perfect industrial edge to the panelled wall. "Jennifer is a genius at sourcing lighting," says Sophie.

Cloud White CC-40 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **DINING TABLE,** Restoration Hardware; **DINING CHAIRS,** Inform Interiors; **BANQUETTE FABRIC,** Télio; **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Layers & Layers.

OPPOSITE, TOP With a cubby for each family member along one wall and meticulously laid-out closets on the other, the mud room is an ultra-organized treat for the active family.

Dune White CC-70 **WALL PAINT,** Cloud White CC-40 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; Off-Black 57 **CEILING PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **FLOOR TILES,** Stone Tile International; **RUNNER,** Örling & Wu; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co.

Sophie and the project's lead designer, Jennifer Millar, were involved from the start – from recommending an architect to build the 2,800-square-foot four-bedroom house to shopping for its finishing touches. "Both designers are smart and talented, and I was always impressed with their selections – unique and interesting yet unfussy," says the wife. "How could I not trust them?"

With carte blanche to create the family's dream home, Sophie and Jennifer set about creating a traditional aesthetic (which ties in the exterior architecture) with a clean, contemporary character. "Finding the right balance between the two styles was one of the biggest challenges for us," says Sophie. But the timeless and trendy palette of black, white and grey used throughout the space helped unify it all. In the open-concept family room, dining area and kitchen, old-world touches like window casings, wall panelling and thick baseboards are tempered by sleek simple-lined furnishings and punched up by of-the-moment elements, such as herringbone tiles,

LEFT "We just went all in," says Sophie of covering the main-floor powder room walls in chic gold polka-dot wallpaper. While the brass picture light and faucet follow suit, the simple mirror and sink temper all the glitz and glam.

WALLPAPER, AnneStarr; **SINK, FAUCET,** Cantu Bathrooms & Hardware; **MIRROR, PICTURE LIGHT,** Restoration Hardware.

BELOW & RIGHT The cozy family room, which has its own office area, is open to the kitchen so the homeowners can keep an eye on the kids, whether they're doing homework or watching TV. Grey paint not only modernizes the traditional panelled wall but also blends in with the TV.

Mole's Breath 276 **FEATURE WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **SECTIONAL,** Van Gogh Designs; **COFFEE TABLE, RUG,** Restoration Hardware; **FIREPLACE SURROUND,** Marble Art; **DESKTOP,** Caesarstone Canada; Tolix **DESK CHAIR,** Design Within Reach; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Workstead.

brass hardware, Mid-Century Modern pieces and industrial light fixtures.

The designers also delivered all the practical features the homeowners sought: a quiet sitting room closed-off from the rest of the house, ample storage to accommodate all the kitchen gadgets and sports gear, a separate upstairs bathroom for the boys and a rec room and laundry room in the basement. In addition to the homeowners' family-friendly requests, Sophie and Jennifer offered up another brilliant idea: to include an office nook in the family room so the kids would have a spot to complete their homework while remaining close to their parents. No doubt the homeowners will be thanking the designers for years to come – not only for delivering their dream home but also for anticipating needs they hadn't considered. It goes to show how far the words "I trust you" can take you. That's the best lesson we learned today.

Simple, serene and pared back, the master bedroom, with its layered textures and neutral hues, is one of the most feminine rooms in the house, says Sophie.

Lunch at Tiffany's P5219-24 **WALL PAINT,** Para Paints; **NIGHTSTAND,** Hedge House Furniture; **RUG,** Salari Fine Carpet Collections; **SCONCE,** Cedar & Moss; **TOSS CUSHION,** Provide Home.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

When these homeowners downsized, they also edited their lavish library, keeping a fraction of the books and only the most meaningful of the bunch. Although the curtailed collection is still substantial, designer Robyn Rider was up to the task of making it work in the renovation of their new abode.

TEXT SARA CATION | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY BRANDFORD
STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT

ONE FOR THE BOOKS

Lucky for her, these clients weren't afraid of style, colour or putting faith in her expertise. The resulting space is a reader's dream, boasting book-laden walls and cozy corners for devouring the next great read, cover to cover.

French doors – which lead to a backyard oasis that borders a ravine – let a tremendous amount of light into the living room of this Toronto house designed by Robyn Rider. Because of the kitchen's proximity to this space, it was decorated with statement pieces, such as oversized lantern-style pendant lights, to unify the areas.

DESIGN, Robyn Madeline Interiors, robynmadeline.com; **ARCHITECTURE,** Monica E. Kuhn; **CONTRACTING,** Weenen General Contracting; **MILLWORK** (throughout), custom **CABINETRY,** Bellini Custom Cabinetry; White Tie 2002 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), All White 2005 **MILLWORK & CABINETRY PAINT** (throughout), Farrow & Ball; **STOOLS,** South Hill Home; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Visual Comfort & Co.

"They didn't give me a lot of direction, but **THEY HAVE GREAT TASTE** and great pieces to work with."

ABOVE Black soapstone countertops break up the white kitchen cabinetry that would have otherwise looked too clinical in this cozy space. Even though it's quite high maintenance, soapstone adds warmth and lustre. "It's an extra layer of luxury," says Robyn.

COUNTERTOPS, Greensville Soapstone Company; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Marble Granite Depot; **APPLIANCES,** Tasco; **FAUCET,** Taps Bath Centre; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Ginger's.

FAR LEFT The first space you see when you walk through the front door is the powder room. It sets the tone for the punchy greens and bold prints used throughout the rest of the house.

WALLPAPER, Lee Jofa; custom **VANITY,** Bellini Custom Cabinetry; **FAUCET,** Taps Bath Centre.

Easygoing, trusting and super stylish: These homeowners were downright dream clients for designer Robyn Rider, whom they hired to revamp their newly purchased three-bedroom dwelling in downtown Toronto. The protege of the designer who'd transformed their previous house, Robyn was the prime candidate to deliver an updated look to these downsizing lawyers' home.

"They have great taste and great pieces to work with," says Robyn – plus, lots of books. Though the homeowners significantly reduced their large book collection, the remaining titles were more than substantial, including legal references, favourite reads, hardcover sets and prized heirlooms. It's only fitting, then, that the only directive Robyn was given was to accommodate this veritable library, which ended up dictating much of the main floor's design.

Robyn added floor-to-ceiling bookcases throughout the entire main level to achieve the perfect marriage of library and living space. This is especially evident in the dining room, which she designed as a place to not only eat meals and host dinner parties but also to lounge by the fire with a good book. To that effect, a cozy armchair by the fireplace is accompanied by a reading lamp and footstool, and the banquette at the round urn-based dining table is extra-deep and extra-comfy. "I wanted to create an intimate area that could accommodate guests, but where the homeowners wouldn't feel ridiculous when it's just the two of them," says Robyn.

While the central kitchen marks a bit of a departure from the scholarly look, it still feels like a seamless part of the open-concept living area. "I used cabinets featuring the same profile and colour as the millwork in the adjacent dining and living rooms," says Robyn. Integrated and panelled appliances as well as cabinetry with footed toe kicks lend the space a furnished feel, while oversized lantern-style pendant lights above the island are the kind you might find over a formal dining

BELOW & OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT The library-inspired living room features clever design details, such as space-saving pull-out shelves in place of side tables. "I was channelling British townhouse style, in which everything has a purpose," says Robyn.

Custom **SOFA & ARMCHAIR,** Robert Custom Upholstery; **ARMCHAIR FABRIC,** patterned **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC, DRAPERY TRIM,** Primavera; **BERGÈRE CHAIR FABRIC,** Lee Jofa; **COFFEE TABLE,** Boo Boo & Lefty; **DRAPERY FABRIC,** Threadcount Textile & Design; **DRAPERY SEWING,** Superior Installation; **SCONCES,** Cocoon Furnishings; green **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC** (throughout), Kravet Canada.

ABOVE Reminding Robyn (pictured right) of gardens in Provence, the table base, an oversized urn, was the jumping-off point for the dining room's palette. "I love its intense green colour," says the designer, "and I just went with it!" The homeowners also love the extra-deep banquette. Robyn used a bold botanical print on the Roman shades to blur the border between indoors and out, imparting a lively and verdant atmosphere.

Custom **BANQUETTE,** Robert Custom Upholstery; **BANQUETTE FABRIC,** Primavera; **ROMAN SHADE & TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Bilbrough & Co.; **ROMAN SHADE SEWING,** Superior Installation; **CHANDELIER,** Boo Boo & Lefty.

RIGHT A dining area and reading nook rolled into one, this room sees a lot of action. The bookcases, lined with selections and collections most meaningful to the homeowners, lend an old-world vibe that is punched up by the fresh armchair fabric.

Custom **ARMCHAIR,** Robert Custom Upholstery; **ARMCHAIR FABRIC,** Bilbrough & Co.; **RUG, MIRROR,** Elte; **FLOOR LAMP,** Restoration Hardware; **PICTURE LIGHT,** Cocoon Furnishings.

table, further blending the lines between the cooking zone and the rest of the home.

After all, the kitchen leads right into the living room, which returns to books. "I didn't even try to organize or colour code them," says Robyn of her approach to keeping the look cohesive. "It would have felt too contrived." (Plus, the husband is pretty particular about organizing things by subject.) So, to temper the mismatched assortment, Robyn created a serene envelope of white millwork and cream walls, which she used throughout the main level. "We could afford to be quieter with the paint palette considering the books and the bold textiles," she explains, noting examples like the traditional multi-hued heirloom needlepoint rug and contemporary zigzag-patterned armchairs. "The homeowners definitely didn't need to be convinced to use colour," says Robyn. "It actually took some convincing to leave the walls neutral!"

Once Robyn finessed the final details of the newly designed house, the homeowners unpacked and arranged their last tomes onto the shelves, ready to begin their new chapter.

A serene departure from the rest of the house, the main guest room is soft yet sophisticated. The antique settee is a family heirloom that Robyn had reupholstered with a contemporary centre stripe design. From there, Robyn layered in more powder blue and cream elements into the space but brought in dove grey to counter the femininity. "Powder blue on its own can border on prissy," she explains.

Simply White OC-117 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **SETTEE FABRICS,** Robert Allen; **SETTEE UPHOLSTERY,** Robert Custom Upholstery; **DRAPERY FABRIC,** Primavera; **DRAPERY SEWING,** Superior Installation; **RUG,** Y & Co.; **THROW,** Elte.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

herbed butter

Mix unsalted butter with fresh herbs like thyme, sage or basil and spread on grilled baguette slices.

the $20 DINNER

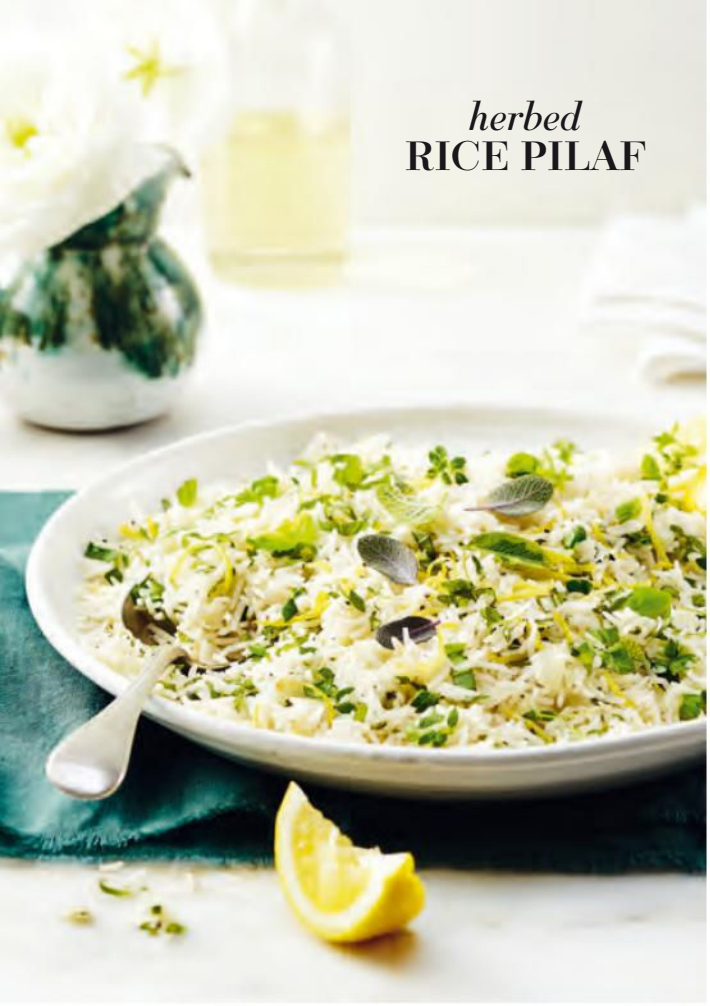
Cost-conscious meals never go out of style. Case in point: When we ran our family-friendly budget recipes last year ("The $20 Dinner," February 2015), the approval was unanimous, with readers asking for more, more, more! We're happy to oblige, this time with ideas for a delicious meal rounded out with flavour from freshly picked herbs, such as sage, basil, thyme and oregano. We can hear the "mmm" from here.

RECIPES GILEAN WATTS

PHOTOGRAPHY MAYA VISNYEI

FOOD STYLING CLAIRE STUBBS

PROP STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT



herbed
RICE PILAF

baked late-summer vegetable
RATATOUILLE

apricot-glazed
PORK TENDERLOIN

CASSEROLE DISH, STAUB, ZWILLING.CA/STAUB

CRACKER BARREL
CRACKER BARREL SHREDS EXPERTLY BLEND UP TO FOUR CHEESES FOR NATURALLY IRRESISTIBLE FLAVOUR, FRESH OFF THE BLOCK.
START WITH CRACKER BARREL. END WITH AMAZING.
CRACKER BARREL
PIZZA
MEX

THYME & APPLE TART
with maple whipped cream

HERBED RICE PILAF

SERVES **4**

- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 cup long-grain rice
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- ½ cup roughly chopped fresh basil
- 1 tbsp each: roughly chopped fresh sage and fresh thyme
- ½ tsp grated lemon zest
- 2 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice

In a heavy-bottomed saucepan, heat the oil over medium heat; add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until translucent and softened, about 4 minutes. Add the rice and garlic; cook, stirring, until the garlic is fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in the broth, salt and pepper; bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low; cover and simmer until the rice is tender, about 20 minutes. Remove from the heat; fluff the rice with a fork. Add the basil, sage, thyme, lemon zest and juice and toss with a fork until combined; serve.

BAKED LATE-SUMMER VEGETABLE RATATOUILLE

SERVES **4**

- ½ cup prepared pasta sauce
- 1 tbsp tomato paste
- ¼ tsp each: dried oregano and crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 small green or yellow zucchini, sliced ⅛" thick
- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1 small plum tomato, sliced ⅛" thick
- 2 tbsp thinly sliced fresh basil

Preheat the oven to 425°F. Spread the pasta sauce in the bottom of a 5-cup oval casserole dish; stir in the tomato paste and half each of the oregano and red pepper flakes.

In a large bowl, toss together the zucchini, oil, salt, pepper and remaining oregano and red pepper flakes.

Arrange the zucchini and tomato slices in the casserole dish in overlapping concentric circles. Bake until the sauce is bubbling and the zucchini are tender, about 20 minutes. Sprinkle with the basil just before serving.

APRICOT-GLAZED PORK TENDERLOIN

SERVES **4**

- ⅓ cup apricot jam
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp pure maple syrup or liquid honey
- 1 pork tenderloin (about 450 g), trimmed
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 2 apricots, halved and pitted
- 1 tbsp each: chopped fresh basil and fresh sage

In a small saucepan, stir together the jam, mustard and maple syrup. Bring to a boil; reduce the heat to low and simmer, stirring often, until the mixture coats the back of a spoon, about 5 minutes. Remove 3 tablespoons of the glaze to a small bowl and set aside.

Sprinkle the pork with the salt and pepper; brush all over with the glaze. Place the pork on a greased grill over medium-high heat; cook, turning occasionally and brushing with some of the reserved glaze during the last minute of cooking time, until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the meat reads 160°F, about 18 minutes.

Meanwhile, add the apricots to the grill, cut side down; cook, turning frequently and brushing with the remaining reserved glaze, until the fruit is softened and caramelized, about 5 minutes. Remove the pork and apricots from the grill; let the pork stand for 5 minutes before slicing. Sprinkle with the basil and sage and serve.

THYME & APPLE TART WITH MAPLE WHIPPED CREAM

SERVES **4**

- 3 tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- 3 tbsp packed brown sugar
- 2 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 apple (Braeburn, Gala or Northern Spy), quartered, cored and very thinly sliced lengthwise
- 1 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1 sheet (half of a 450 g package) frozen butter puff pastry, thawed
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh thyme
- ½ cup 35% whipping cream
- 1 tbsp pure maple syrup

In a large bowl, whisk together the butter, brown sugar, lemon juice, cinnamon and salt; place 1 tablespoon in a small bowl and set aside. Add the apple and flour to the remaining butter mixture, tossing to coat; set aside.

On a large sheet of parchment paper, unroll the pastry; fold the pastry in half and roll out to a 15" x 6" rectangle. Lifting the parchment along with the pastry, transfer to a large rimless baking sheet.

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Whisk the egg yolk with 1 teaspoon water; lightly brush some of the mixture over the edges of the pastry. Fold the edges over all around, pressing to adhere. Brush the remaining egg yolk mixture all over the pastry, then prick the centre all over with a fork.

Arrange the apples, overlapping slightly, in two rows over the centre of the pastry. Brush the apples with the reserved butter mixture. Bake until the pastry is puffed and golden and the apples are tender and lightly browned, about 20 minutes. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with the thyme; allow to cool slightly.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, beat the whipping cream with the maple syrup using a hand-held mixer until stiff peaks form; serve with the warm tart.

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absolutelyinc.com

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Mirolin
mirolin.com

Mist Bath
mistbath.com

Mitchell Black Home
mitchellblack.com

Monica E. Kuhn
mekarch.ca

Monte Clark Gallery
monteclarkgallery.com

Mooredale Contracting
mooredalecontracting.com

Mulherin
katharinemulherin.com

N

The Natural Textile Company
naturaltextiles.com

Newport Brass
newportbrass.com

O

Olympia Tile + Stone
olympiatile.com

Örling & Wu
orlingandwu.com

P

Para Paints
para.com

Pehr Designs
pehrdesigns.com

Primavera*
primavera.ca

Provide Home
providehome.com

Q

Qui Dort Dîne
quidortdine.ca

R

Relative Space
relativespace.com

Restoration Hardware
rh.com

Ridley Windows & Doors
ridley-windows.com

Robert Allen
robertallendesign.com

Robert Custom Upholstery
robertcustom.com

Robyn Madeline Interiors
robynmadeline.com

Roman Bath Centre
romanbathcentre.com

S

Salari Fine Carpet Collections
salari.com

Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co.
schoolhouseelectric.com

Sherwin-Williams
sherwin-williams.com

Sherwood Custom Homes
sherwoodhomes.ca

Simon Hughes
simonhughes.ca

SMK Construction
smk-construction.com

Sophie Burke Design
sophieburkedesign.com

South Hill Home
southhillhome.com

Stone Tile International
stone-tile.com

Summum Granit
summumgranit.com

Superior Installation
416-782-2259

T

Taps Bath Centre
tapsbath.com

Tasco
tascoappliance.ca

Télio
telio.com

Threadcount Textile & Design*
threadcountinc.com

U

Upper Canada Specialty Hardware
ucsh.com

The Urban Electric Co.
urbanelectricco.com

V

Van Gogh Designs
vangoghdesigns.com

Vaughan Construction Management
vaughanconstruction.ca

Visual Comfort & Co.*
visualcomfort.com

W

Weenen General Contracting
weenengeneral.com

West Coast Kids
westcoastkids.ca

Workstead
workstead.com

World Mosaic Tile
worldmosaictile.com

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Y & Co.
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Chrome-finished metal Via **FAUCET,** $357, Moen, moen.ca.

Pallace brass PA08+ **FAUCET** in Chrome, $499, Riobel, riobel.ca.

Isla brass gooseneck **FAUCET** in Burnished Brass with Geode handles, $3,403, Waterworks, waterworks.com.

Purist brass **FAUCET** in Vibrant Moderne Brushed Gold with low lever handles, $1,143, Kohler, kohler.ca.

8 *Fancy* FAUCETS

Does your bathroom leave you feeling less than inspired? We have just the fix. Behold: eight widespread faucets that will give your space the luxe treatment it deserves.

Zura brass **FAUCET** in Matte Black & Chrome, $729, Delta Faucet, deltafaucet.ca.

tip

For a more cohesive look, coordinate the faucet's finish with your existing bathroom accents, such as light fixtures and cabinetry hardware.

Townsend brass **FAUCET** in Polished Chrome, $409, American Standard, americanstandard.ca.

Newform brass Park **FAUCET** in Chrome, $1,181, Nortesco, nortesco.com.

Perrin & Rowe brass Deco **FAUCET** in Chrome with cross handles, $1,978, Nortesco, nortesco.com.

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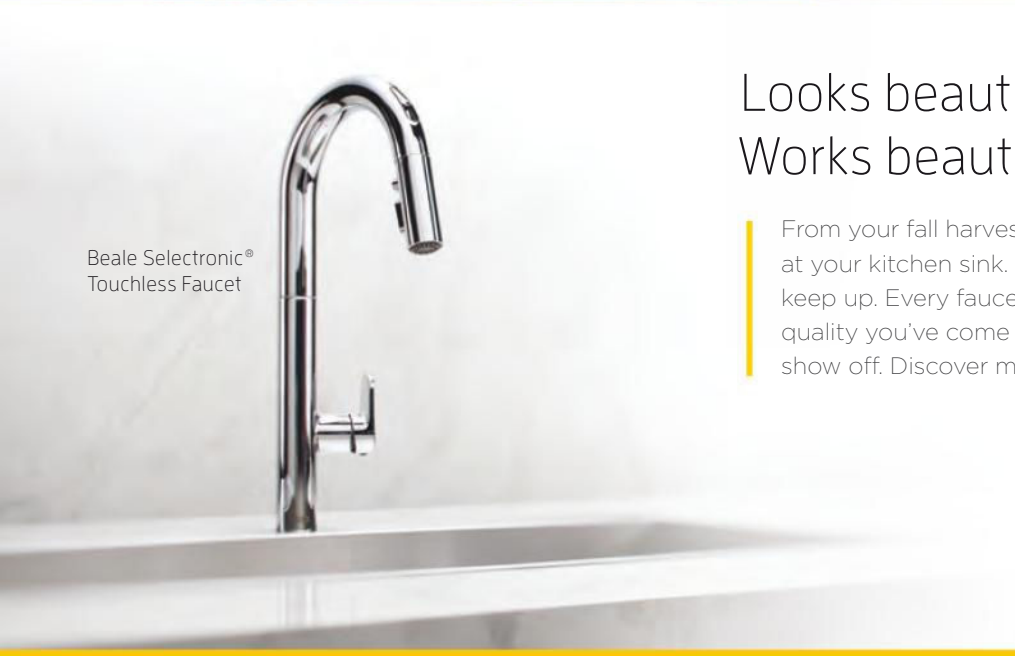

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